

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUBJECT

Syro-Iraqi Union Activity

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(LISTED BELOW)

1. [redacted] Akram Haurani, Syrian Minister of Defense; Lieutenant Colonel Adib Shishakli; and Ibrahim Husayni, head of the Deuxième Bureau, are considering "drastic action" against politicians who, they suspect, are continuing to intrigue for a Syro-Iraqi union.* [redacted] even Rushdi Kikhya is likely to be arrested within the next two weeks.
2. At present, the Syrian Popular Party (PPS) is split on the question of whether or not to back Akram Haurani in a move to make him dictator.
3. [redacted] Sabri Asali** and his Nationalist Party supporters are planning a people's movement against the Syrian Army and for a union with Iraq, and that it probably will take place during the latter part of February 1950; circumstances, however, may make earlier action necessary. Informant states further, however, that Faysal Asali is continuing to work for the return of Shukri Quwwatli and is only "considering" changing to a pro-Iraq move.
- * [redacted] Comment. [redacted] states that Haurani is greatly concerned about the pro-Syro-Iraqi union activity in Syria and feels "forced" to take action against leaders of the Populist Party. [redacted] Anwar Bannud, Chief of Staff, who distrusts Haurani, may "sabotage" Haurani.
- ** [redacted] Comment. [redacted] believes that Sabri Asali is working for the return of Shukri Quwwatli and that Adil Azmah is continuing to work for a Syro-Iraqi union; according to [redacted] Iraqi intriguers make numerous calls at Azmah's house. However, Adil Azmah, who was formerly pro-Iraq, is now against Syro-Iraqi union.

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